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## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraphs of the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph [1005] with the following amended paragraph:

[1005] An example of a data only communication system is a high data rate (HDR) communication system that conforms to the TIA/EIA/IS-856 industry standard, hereinafter referred to as the IS-856 standard. This HDR system is based on a communication system disclosed in co-pending application serial number 08/963,386, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR HIGH RATE PACKET DATA TRANSMISSION," filed November 3, 1997, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,564,211, and assigned to the assignee of the present invention. The HDR communication system defines a set of data rates, ranging from 38.4 kbps to 2.4 Mbps, at which an access point (AP) may send data to a subscriber station (access terminal, AT). Because the AP is analogous to a base station, the terminology with respect to cells and sectors is the same as with respect to voice systems.

Please replace paragraph [1009] with the following amended paragraph:

[1009] A co-pending application serial number 09/933,912, entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR UTILIZATION OF AN OUTER DECODER IN A BROADCAST SERVICES COMMUNICATION SYSTEM," filed August 20, 2001, and assigned to the assignee of the present invention, discussed in detail utilization of an outer decoder in a broadcast system. As described in the co-pending application serial number 09/933,912, the bit stream of information to be transmitted is first encoded by an outer decoder and the encoded stream is then encoded by an inner encoder. As illustrated in FIG. 1, the bit stream of information to be transmitted 102, originating at higher layers, is provided to a transmit buffer 104. The transmit buffer is illustrated in more detail in FIG. 2. The total number of rows in the transmit buffer is equal to n, comprising k systematic rows and (n-k) parity rows. Referring to FIG. 2, the bits fill the systematic portion 204(1) of the transmit buffer 104 (of FIG. 1) row by row from left to right.

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The systematic portion 204(1) comprises  $k$  rows 208 of length  $L$ . Referring back to FIG. 1, once the systematic portion 204(4) (of FIG. 2) is full, the outer block encoder 106 is activated to perform column-wise encoding of the bits in the systematic portion 204(1) (of FIG. 2) to generate  $(n-k)$  additional rows 210 (of FIG. 2) of parity bits.  $m$  is the number of bits used to code an  $m$ -bit symbol. This column-wise operation is performed column by column for binary outer code, i.e.,  $m = 1$ . For non-binary code, i.e.,  $m > 1$ , every  $m$  adjacent columns in a row are treated as a  $m$ -bit symbol. The  $m$ -bit symbols along the top  $k$  rows are read by the outer encoder to produce  $n-k$   $m$ -bit symbols that fill the corresponding lower  $n-k$  rows of these columns.

Please replace paragraph [1010] with the following amended paragraph:

[1010] The outer encoder comprises, e.g., a systematic Reed-Solomon (R-S) encoder. Referring back to FIG. 1, the content of the transmit buffer 104 is then provided to a physical layer 108. At the physical layer 108, the individual frames are encoded by an inner encoder (not shown), which results in encoded frames. The structure of the inner decoder may be be [[is]] well known to one of ordinary skills in the art. The systematic rows and the parity rows of the buffer may be interleaved during transmission to reduce the chance of large number of systematic rows erased when the total number of inner code erasure exceeds the outer code's correcting capability. The frames are further processed in accordance with a selected modulation scheme, e.g., cdma2000, WCDMA, UMTS, and other modulation schemes known to one of ordinary skills in the art. The processed frames are then transmitted over a communication channel 110.